

GULF COAST COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY MISSION LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI

Baton Rouge, New Orleans & Biloxi

MAY 4-5, 2006

See first-hand the business opportunities in the Gulf Coast.



Join the Gulf Coast Business Investment Mission to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana and Biloxi, Mississippi from May 4-5, 2006. Led by Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, in coordination with Federal Coordinator Donald E. Powell, Gulf Coast Rebuilding, Department of Homeland Security, the mission will offer U.S. businesses a unique forum to see first-hand the business opportunities in the Gulf Region following the passage of the GO Zone Act of 2005.

Commercial Setting:

Over the past six months, Congress and the President have worked together to provide approximately \$85 billion in federal assistance for the Gulf Region. A crucial component of these efforts has been to provide tax relief to the private sector in order to encourage business development and job creation. In December of 2005, the President signed the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act, which provides \$8.7 billion in tax relief to individuals, states, and businesses. The GO Zone Act will boost the private sector and revive the spirit of entrepreneurship across Louisiana and Mississippi. This mission will focus on the GO Zone Act's goals of Gulf private sector investment and economic development.

The Gulf Coast represents approximately 28% of U.S. domestic crude oil production and approximately 15% of U.S. national refining capacity. Additionally, trade from over 190 countries flows through Gulf Coast ports: the Port of New Orleans is the country's top port for imported natural rubber and coffee. Across the board, the Gulf Coast ports are national leaders in shipping agricultural products such as corn, soybeans, wheat and rice.

The Mission will visit three Gulf Coast cities: Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Biloxi/Gulf Port. At each stop, participants will be briefed by key federal, state, and local government officials capable of speaking to the general economic and business landscape in the region. Briefings will focus on the government programs geared toward promoting investment in the region. Additionally, participants will meet with representatives from leading Gulf Coast businesses and business organizations.

Criteria for Participation:

- Relevance of a company's business line to mission goals.
- Company's primary business objectives for participating on this mission.
- Capacity and intent to invest \$5 million or more in the region and /or current investment of \$5 million or more in the Gulf Coast region.
- Rank of company official proposed for mission; participating company official should have capacity to make or recommend investment decisions.

Take advantage of this opportunity and apply today.

Applications and additional information is available at <http://www.GulfCoastOpportunity.gov>

The Participation Fee is \$1,000. This fee excludes personal travel and lodging costs.